



REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam



APRIL 2017

NOTATIONS FROM APPLICATIONS

Night Security Flight Commander. Participated in Tet offensive battle. Initially responded to 051 Gate area and then linked with responding forces. Evacuated wounded to Hospital. Also involved in May 1968 ground attack and numerous rocket attacks during the year.

Melvin G. Grover, Jr.
377th Security Police Squadron
August '67 - August '68

Ilived in a hotel in Saigon. Commuted via the Navy bus. At one point bought a Honda 125 to ride but rarely did.

NCOIC of the night shift during the attack in December 1966. Just secured the APO and had the guys guard the doors and the rest get in the Registered Mail safe. The M16's were chained to the rack and we had no key. We had an old 45 pistol we had to wear to transport registered mail. The next day we had access to the gun rack key!

Joel K. Martin
OL 1508 Det. 1500USAF Pac Postal & Courier, PACAF
February '66 - February '67.

At TSN - across fence from cemetery, Tet was at Phu Bai - (Hue) above DaNang, arrange for Embassy Courier jet daily to pick-up film/prints of BDA's and troop movements.

I was a top "scrounge" of things you needed!!! Also worked for a while at RMK BRJ on their "island of goodies." downtown area as security guard for extra \$\$\$\$. Next to Agent Orange storage! Yummy!

Douglas L. Ayers
460th TRW 600 Photo Sqd - OLAA in (Phu Cat)
February '66 - January '69.

Barracks right beside helicopter landing area. Unloaded all cargo flying in and reloaded it onto C-130's for distribution thru country. Constant rocket attacks hit barracks beside mine taking two airmen. Sergeant in Air force. Left as E-5.

Carmen Rescindo
8th Aerial Port Squadron
March 1968 - March 1969



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

OBEDIENCE

Rev. Dr. Billy T. Lowe,
Chaplain, TSNA

During the Vietnam War, Captain Ray Baker flew for the Strategic Air Command. He was a good airman. The Air Force trained him, along with all the other pilots, to drop whatever they were doing and run out of their barracks to their planes at the sound of a buzzer.

Once Ray Baker came home to California on furlough. The night he arrived, his family took him to his favorite Mexican restaurant. Everything was going well and a spirit of celebration filled the air until Captain Baker jumped up without warning and ran outside into the parking lot.

Catching up with him, his nephew asked him in total bewilderment "Where are you going, Uncle Ray?"

"I'm looking for my plane," Captain Ray replied as he searched the horizon for his B-52. "It's not here," his nephew explained. Then he asked, "Why did you run out here like that?" "I heard the buzzer," he said.

It was only then that his nephew realized that directly above their table was a buzzer used to call waiters to the kitchen to pick up their meals.

Obedience always calls for unquestioned, immediate action. This is what Jesus Christ expects from his disciples. Anything less is dereliction of duty. "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it" (Luke 11:28).

May each of you have a blessed Easter Season.

(The above reprinted from the April, 2008 Revetments)



Looking Back to the Year 1960

1960 brought to us a new decade, and one for the ages. The decade of the 60's defined me as no other decade did or will ever. It started out so innocently and filled with so many expectations yet, it was filled with all the ugly life had to offer. I was destined to learn things no person should ever know. And once learned some of those things could not be unlearned.

In the news of 1960, a young John F. Kennedy was elected President. It was a stark contrast between the young and energetic Kennedy and the always reserved Richard Nixon. Does anyone remember the televised debates between Kennedy and Nixon?

New things were being marketed for our use. Felt-tipped pens were introduced as well as drinks being packaged in aluminum cans. In medicine the "pill" was introduced as well as the pacemaker.

Ford Motor Company cancelled the Edsel car and introduced a compact, economy car called the Falcon. Chevrolet introduced the air-cooled rear engine car called the Corvair.

Robert McNamara was instrumental in the development of the Ford Falcon and later served briefly as President of Ford Motor Company. With the election of John Kennedy as President, McNamara was named Secretary of Defense and headed to Washington where he later directed the war efforts in Vietnam under Lyndon Johnson.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded. It would be years before anyone noticed this organization.

President Eisenhower faced an international incident when the Russians shot down a U-2 spy plane. The pilot, Gary Powers, was captured and was later returned via a prisoner exchange.

That little known place called Vietnam now had approximately 900 "advisors" to train and advise the South Vietnamese forces. Five advisors died in 1960 bringing the war deaths to nine. Seemingly no one had a clue of what was to come. The United States announced plans of sending 3,500 troops to Vietnam.

For entertainment we had movies, TV's sports, and listened to the best music of all time, usually on AM radios. At the movies in 1960, we watched such films as *The Alamo*, *The Apartment*, *Elmer Gantry*, *Sons and Lovers*, *The Sundowners*, *Inherit the Wind*. Among the favorite TV shows were *Gunsmoke*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *Real McCoy's*, *Andy Griffith Show*, *Rawhide*, and *Candid Camera*.

Since I was in the all-important teenage years, music was becoming special. Here are the top 10 songs of 1960 as listed by Billboard. How many of these classic sounds do you remember? Remember dancing to them? Do you recall holding a small transistor radio to your ear?

A Summer Place by Percy Faith; He'll Have to Go by Jim Reeves; Cathy's Clown by Everly Brothers; Running Bear by Johnny Preston; Teen Angel by Mark Denning; I'm Sorry by Brenda Lee; It's Now or Never by Elvis; Handy Man by Jimmy Jones; Stuck on You by Elvis; The Twist by Chubby Checker.

"The Twist" started a dance craze lasting for years where you could dance without touching your partner.

Major League sports were coming of age primarily because of the growth of television.

In Major League baseball, the Pittsburgh Pirates defeated the New York Yankees in the World Series. The game is best known because of Bill Mazeroski's walk-off home run in the ninth inning to end the seventh game and the World Series.

In professional football, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Green Bay Packers to win the National Football League championship. A new pro football league was started in 1960 called the American Football League. In its first championship game, the Houston Oilers defeated the Los Angeles Chargers.

In college football, Minnesota and Mississippi were crowned National Co-Champions. Ohio State defeated California in College Basketball.

[\(Thanks again to Harold Boone for these reminiscing articles.\)](#)

**THIS SPACE
RESERVED
FOR
YOUR
STORY!!**

WORKING ON 8TH AIRPORT TAXIWAY, 1200 AREA

FROM FRED BENDA, September 1970 - September 1971. 823rd & 544th Red Horse Combat Engineers
(Friend of the late TSNA Member, Benny Goodman)



* * * * *

A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

***“A beautiful life
that came to an end,
he died as he lived,
everyone’s friend.
In our hearts a memory
will always be kept,
of one we loved,
and will never forget.”***

(The above from the Memorial Service for TSNA member Dean Gard)

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REUNION 2017

Guess what? We are less than six months from getting together in Colorado Springs. I have been busy organizing things, not only for this reunion, but for our 2018 reunion in Dayton, OH as well. But, first things first.

The Registration Form for the reunion is, finally, available. I have received many requests for this form, so let's go ahead and start sending them in, along with your checks, please. (I take full responsibility for this form not being available sooner. However, I wanted to make sure that everything was 100% correct before posting it.)

Many, if not most of you, will be arriving on Thursday, or later. However, we do have a small ceremony organized for Thursday morning in Denver. Many of you knew Bill Coup who passed away last year. I had the honor of getting together with Bill as he was organizing a tribute to all of those who served with the 460th TFW at Tan Son Nhut. The successor to that unit is the 460th Space Wing, headquartered at Buckley AFB, just outside of Denver, CO. Working with the unit historian, Chris McCune, we will be dedicating a plaque at the unit headquarters on Thursday morning. Due to the limited space, and the fact that this is a normal workday for the unit, attendance will be severely limited. Those who served with the 460th TFW who would like to attend should contact me to arrange attendance. This is strictly on a first-come basis, and individuals will have to provide their own transportation from Colorado Springs to Denver and back. Ride sharing may be available as I plan on have a rental carrying 5-6 extra passengers. We are limited to no more than 10-12 individuals, total, on a first-come, first-served basis.

We have a couple of tours lined up for your enjoyment. On Friday morning, we will be visiting the USAF Academy. Some of our stops will include the Visitors Center and Gift Shop; the Cadet Chapel, which is the most-visited attraction in the State of Colorado; and the overlook of the Cadet parade ground, where hopefully, if our timing is right, we can watch the Noon lunch formation. (Note: This may be the last opportunity to visit the Cadet Chapel for four years as it is scheduled to close next year for renovation and repair. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of the most beautiful structures in the world.) We are still working on some additional activities so be sure to stay tuned!



On Saturday, we have a tour of Peterson AFB, home of Space Command, lined up. This tour is still a work in progress but I can assure you that it will be well worth it, as I

participated in it with another reunion group back in 2014. This tour will conclude with a visit to the National Museum of World War II Aviation, which has a very limited amount of time that it is open to the public.

Our Friday night Banquet is all set. As you may have seen earlier, this year we will be having a seated, plated dinner, rather than our usual buffet. This, hopefully, will make for a much more amenable event. All of our members will be seated at their table and the hotel servers will bring their pre-ordered menu selection to them. We have selected five available entrees, and we are still deciding what dessert options will be available. Trust me, you will not be disappointed. Vegan and gluten-free options will be available as well. Enjoy! In the next issue of Revetments, you will be able to make your dinner selections, and indicate any specific medical or other health-related restrictions you might have.

You know, it is one thing to have everything all set up for you, and all you have to do is show up at the appointed time, and off you go! Well, this reunion, and Colorado is just a bit different. We have only scheduled a minimum of activities as we want you to get out and enjoy all that Colorado has to offer. We hope that you have done your homework by ordering the Colorado Springs, and Colorado Visitors Guides, so you can plan additional activities while you are here.

Here are just a few of the local attractions available within an hour or two's drive of our hotel. Pike's Peak? Manitou Springs? Florissant Fossil Beds? Cripple Creek? The Olympic Training Center? The Broadmoor? Royal Gorge Lunch/Dinner Train?

On that note, I will conclude this article on our 2017 Reunion. There is so much more to work on, which hopefully, is going to provide you with one of the more memorable events our association has put together.

Please. Come join us in Colorado, one of the more exciting places you will ever visit!

This year we have a truly honored guest joining us. Taryn Davis is the Founder and Executive Director of the American Widow Project. It is only fitting that she serves in this role, as her husband Michael, was killed in Afghanistan 2007 while serving our country.

Joe Kricho
TSNA Dir. Of Reunion Planning



Taryn Davis

Tan Son Nhut Association 2017 Reunion Registration

September 14 – 17, 2017

OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF TAN SON NHUT AND THE VIETNAM CONFLICT
NAME _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____
ADDRESS _____
CELL PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____
NAME OF YOUR GUEST(S): _____

IS THERE ANYONE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS? **YES/NO** (Please circle one.)

REGISTRATION FEES

Number of Persons Attending: _____ x \$75.00 = \$ _____

Pre-order Video of 2017 Reunion QTY: _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

PAYMENT to TSNA MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN Aug 31, 2017.

**PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS PAYABLE TO THE “TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION” AND MAIL TO:
TAN SON NHUT ASSOCIATION**

**P. O. Box 236
Penryn, PA 17564-0236**

ACTIVITIES (No Extra Cost) WITH FULL REGISTRATION FEE

(Please circle which activities that you are paying for separately, if you are not paying the full fee.)

Access to the TSNA Hospitality Suite (drinks, snacks, and war stories!) (\$10.00 daily if purchased separately.)

TSNA Friday Banquet Buffet Dinner. (\$35.00 if purchased separately.)

Friday morning tour of the Air Force Academy (no extra charge)

(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = _____.

Saturday morning tour of Peterson AFB (no extra charge)

(Please indicate how many people will be taking this tour) = _____.

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Marriott Colorado Springs, 5580 Tech Center Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80919

(719) 260-1800 www.marriott.com

Room with breakfast buffet for two: \$114.00

Room without breakfast: \$104.00

Rate does not include tax, which currently is 9.63%. The special room rate is available three days prior and three days post the reunion. Included are free in-room Wi-Fi and free parking.

Please hold “Ctrl”, and click on the following link to make your hotel reservation:

3/29/2017

[Book your group rate for Tan Son Nhut Association Military Reunion](#)

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Rev. Dr. Billy T. Lowe; and Rev. Bob A. Chaffee
Associate Chaplain: Andy Csordas
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Don Parker, (1947-2014), Co-Founder and President 1996-2002
John Peele, Co-Founder and President 2002-2004
Wayne Salisbury, (1940-2014), President 2004-2007
Robert Robinson Gales, President 2007-2011
George Plunkett, President 2011-2015
Web Master: Charles E. Penley
Web Site: www.tsna.org
Annual Membership: \$20.00
Five Year Membership: \$80.00
Life Membership: \$180.00



My thanks again to TSNA Member John Bowen for his Illustrations of Vietnam.

NEW MEMBERS



Mr. Douglas L. Ayers Ames IA doug40499@gmail.com Feb 66 - Jan 69 460th TRW/600 Photo Sqd
Mr. Carmen Rescigno Egg Harbor Twp. NJ carmenresigno@comcast.net Mar 68 - Mar 69 8th Aerial Port Squadron

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